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LETTER DATED 13 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a press release entitled "ICRC visits newly captured prisoners", issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 7 May 1999 (see annex).

The above-mentioned press release of the International Committee of the Red Cross clearly shows that the Government of Ethiopia has been cooperating and continues to cooperate with the Committee by allowing it full access to Eritrean prisoners of war, in accordance with the applicable rules of international humanitarian law.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press release issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 7 May 1999

ICRC visits newly captured prisoners

Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited some 300 Eritrean prisoners of war between 17 and 19 April. The prisoners, captured since hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia resumed in February, are currently being held in a transit camp. The ICRC team, which included a health delegate, registered the prisoners of war and interviewed them in private, in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

In addition to the new prisoners, ICRC is continuing regular visits to prisoners of war and interred Eritrean civilians at Bilate camp to verify whether their living conditions are in keeping with the rules of international humanitarian law.

In Eritrea, meanwhile, ICRC is pursuing its efforts to gain access, as required by the Third Geneva Convention, to Ethiopian prisoners of war captured since the conflict erupted last year.